

Marlboro Tobacco Market, PG: 79-41C  
15301 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD  
1939  
Private

DEMOLISHED

The Marlboro Tobacco Market consists of two buildings to the northeast of the center of Upper Marlboro. The first building, located closer to Marlboro Pike, is composed of gable and flat-roofed sections, resulting from the several additions to the building. The rear building has an un-even gable roof, forming an overhang and a large vent between the interior and exterior. Both buildings have open interiors, sky-lights, timber-frame construction, and exterior metal cladding.

The Marlboro Tobacco Market served as a tobacco market from 1939-2003, from the establishment of the Maryland Commission on Tobacco Marketing in 1939, when Maryland switched from a closed market of selling tobacco in hogshead barrels to an open market of selling loose-leaf tobacco. The first and larger building was built in 1939, and it has several additions. The second building was built in the 1950s. Marlboro Tobacco Market, Inc., the continuous owner of the property since 1939, sold the property to a California-based company in 2006.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of

### Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG:79-41c

#### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Marlboro Tobacco Market

other \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Location

street and number 15301 Marlboro Pike \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

county Prince George's

#### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name 301 Upper Marlboro, LLC

street and number Ste. 1038 8383 Wilshire Blvd. telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Beverly Hills state CA zip code 90211-2412

#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's Clerk of Circuit Court Land Records liber 3703 folio 748

city, town Upper Marlboro, MD tax map 93 tax parcel Lot 1 tax ID number 03-3701257

#### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>2</u> <u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>0</u> <u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>0</u> <u>0</u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>0</u> <u>0</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>2</u> <u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>0</u>

## 7. Description

Inventory No. PG:79-41c

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Marlboro Tobacco Market is a large warehouse with a complex roofline, composed of flat and gable-roofed sections, the result of its multi-phase construction. It is clad with corrugated aluminum siding, and the open interior is striking with its timber framing and pine floors. More than three-quarters of the structure is contained in a single room, punctuated by evenly spaced posts and columns of light from the skylights.

Marlboro Tobacco Market is located to the northwest of the center of Upper Marlboro on Marlboro Pike (MD 725), which is a designated scenic and historic road. It is approximately one-quarter mile west of the intersection of MD 725 with US 301. It is located on the south side of Marlboro Pike, opposite a group of small homes. The 84 Lumber Company is located to the east, and parking is located to the west. Two smaller warehouses are located to the south, and the one to the southwest is part of the Marlboro Tobacco Market property.

The warehouse is about 40 feet tall at its highest points, and it covers 76,433 square feet. It has few windows, but the ones it has are mostly small, six-over-six sash windows. The main doors are on the north side, and they are accessed by wood steps with landings and railings and covered ramps, as the floor is about three feet above the ground. The doors are metal (not original) and wood. The north façade measures 208.6' and the west façade measures 353.9'. There are wood paneled garage doors in groupings throughout the market, located so that trucks could back up to them to load or unload tobacco. Four are located in the front of the building, beneath a gable end. The west side of the market building has several shed roofs, extending 13.8' and supported by posts, which would have provided an area for covered storage or may have served as a carport. The east side of the market has an extension at the rear that extends 40.1' from the main east façade which is 273.3' in length.

The original section of the Marlboro Tobacco Market has a gabled roof with north and south gable ends. This has been added on to the east by a flat-roof section that is flush with the exterior north wall. To the south of this flat-roofed section is a gable-roofed section with gable ends at the east and west. The two gable roofs do not intersect, and the interior timber framing is complicated at this juncture, as seen on the interior. The south side of the east-west gable is flush with the south end of the original section. A flat roof extends to the south across the whole structure.

The interior is mostly open; the south end of the market contains two rooms, divided from the main space by walls. A recessed loading dock (30.1' x 21.9') is located between them, and the roof over this loading dock has failed. The interior posts support trusses when they are located in areas under gable roofs. The posts have Y-shaped braces when they are located in areas under flat roofs. The floors are made from 2" x 6" virgin pine. The two parts of the rear wall measure 128.4' to the west of the loading dock and 98.6' to the east.

The interior posts rest on brick piers, and the foundation is also brick. The piers are visible through holes made in the floor for a recent geo-probe study. The brick foundation is visible at the south end of the market, in one of the two "small" rooms, where the floor is at ground level in an L-shape area, separated from the higher level of the rest of the market. Tobacco baskets are stored in this lower level.

An office partition defined by wood paneling and dating to the 1970s is located in the northwest corner of the main room. A plywood concession stand has been added to the center of the north wall. Toilets and sinks in small, individual rooms with their own windows are located in the northeast portion of the market; they appear to date from the 1940s.

The roof appears to be rubber-covered. The roof has enough skylights so that electric lighting is not needed in the interior during daylight hours. The skylights are made of Plexiglas. The peaks of the gable roofs have vents. Several sections of flat roof have failed and have caved in, breaking some of the cross beams.

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The secondary structure on the property is a smaller warehouse, built in the 1950s. It is clad in metal and has a shed roof, with a slight over hang on the front (north side). The entry door is at the north part of the west side. It has sliding garage-sized doors on the east and west sides. It has an open plan, with wood posts supporting trusses, and wood floors. It also has skylights. At the north end of the structure, where the overhang makes a small gable, the wall consists of chicken screening, allowing the building to vent, but be protected from the elements directly. It measures 144.0' x 127.9' x 143.9' x 128.1', for a total square footage of 18,434.

### 8. Significance

Inventory No. PG: 79-41c

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1939-2003

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1939

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Marlboro Tobacco market is significant for its role in the commerce and economy of Prince George's County. From the founding of the Prince George's County in 1696, the county's economy was based on tobacco production. This building served as a tobacco market from 1939-2003, from the establishment of the Maryland Commission on Tobacco Marketing in 1939 until the current waning of tobacco production in Prince George's County, due to tobacco buyout programs and to the subdivision of former tobacco farms into housing developments.

Upper Marlboro has had a tobacco warehouse since 1747, when the Maryland General Assembly established a formal system of tobacco inspection and quality control, replacing a system of small tobacco landings where farmers sold directly to tobacco merchants. Seven tobacco warehouses were initially established in Prince

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George's County--Upper Marlboro, Bladensburg, Queen Anne, Nottingham, Piscataway, Broad Creek, and Magruder's Landing. The towns where these markets were established benefited from the increased activity the warehouses brought them.<sup>1</sup> This system continued until 1939, with the change of a "closed" market selling tobacco in hogshead barrels replaced by an "open" market selling loose-leaf tobacco at auctions. The open markets allowed tobacco buyers to guarantee the quality of tobacco they bought. Three tobacco warehouses were built in Prince George's County following this switch: the Marlboro Tobacco Market: the Edelen Brothers Warehouse, at 15501 Marlboro Pike, which opened in 1940 and closed in 1988 (PG:79-41a); and the Planters Tobacco Warehouse (PG:79-41b), at 15403 Marlboro Pike. The Planters Warehouse was constructed in 1941 and opened in 1942 and was owned by Peter and John Buchheister. Both the Edelen Brothers Warehouse and the Planters Tobacco Warehouse have been demolished, leaving the Marlboro Tobacco Market as the only example from this era in the county.<sup>2</sup>

Marlboro Tobacco Market Inc. purchased the property in 1939 from William Wilson and Mary Elizabeth Wilson, his wife, on May 20, 1939, for the sum of ten dollars, recorded in Prince George's County Deed Book 521, Page 391. It was part of a parcel that William Wilson had purchased from George B. Merrick in 1911, recorded in Prince George's County Deed Liber 71, Folio 225. Marlboro Tobacco Market, Inc. sold the 4.92-acre property to 301 Upper Marlboro LLC on July 17, 2006 for \$1.45 million, as recorded in Prince George's County Deed Book 25596, Page 646.

In 2001, five tobacco warehouses operated in Maryland, located in Upper Marlboro, Hughesville and Waldorf.<sup>3</sup> The Marlboro Tobacco Market held its last auction in 2003. Antique shows were held in the building during the early 2000's, before and after the last tobacco sale. L. Thomas Wellons, III served as President of Marlboro Tobacco Market at the time of sale to 301 Upper Marlboro LLC. The prior year he donated several items from the Tobacco Market for an exhibit that ran at the Harmony Hall Regional Center in 2005, entitled, "Hands On: African American Workers in the Tobacco South." Mr. Wellons donated "large wooden doors, a tobacco scale from the 1900s, cultivating tools, a ledger and receipts from business transactions, sorting bins containing tobacco brand labels, and other items that bespeak the day-to-day business of growing and selling tobacco."<sup>4</sup>

The University of Maryland Archives of the Maryland State Board of Agriculture Report of Leaf Tobacco Sold presents a good overview of the regulatory history of tobacco marketing in twentieth century Maryland.

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<sup>1</sup> Alan Virta, "The Tobacco County" in "Prince George's County: A Pictorial History," 1996. Available at <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/tobacounty.html> (accessed Dec. 1, 2006).

<sup>2</sup> Susan Lareuse, Prince George's County Planner, Memorandum RE: DSP-06013; July 11, 2006. Available from <http://www.mncppc.org/pgco/planning/agendas/2006%20Resolution%20PDFs/DSP-06013.pdf> (accessed Dec. 1, 2006).

<sup>3</sup> Amy Silva, "Going Once, Going Twice: Maryland's Tobacco Industry is Selling Out," *Maryland Newsline* Friday, March 8, 2001. Available from <http://www.newsline.umd.edu/business/specialreports/tobacco/tobaccoauction030901.htm> (accessed Dec. 1, 2006).

<sup>4</sup> Sara Gebhardt, "Tobacco Show Illuminates Md. Black History Marlboro Market Artifacts on Exhibit," *Washington Post* Thursday, February 24, 2005; Page PG21. Available from <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A47554-2005Feb23?language=printer> (accessed Dec. 1, 2006).



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"Between 1750 and 1938, practically all tobacco growers in Maryland marketed their product through the hogshead markets in Baltimore. In the traditional hogshead market system, farmers brought their cured tobacco in hogshead barrels (650 pounds or greater) to the wholesalers. At the warehouses, inspectors graded the tobacco and selected samples for bidders to examine. The samples were not always representative of the quality of the entire amount to be purchased. Tobacco buyers complained that some farmers "nested" their barrels with higher quality tobacco on top and lower quality tobacco or even other materials underneath. Farmers were often unsatisfied with the closed-bid system of the hogshead markets as well. In 1920, a group of farmers dissatisfied with market prices founded the Maryland Tobacco Growers' Association. This cooperative attempted to standardize prices.

In 1939, Crosby Wyche, a student at the University of Maryland, opened the first loose-leaf market in the state. In the loose-leaf auction system, tobacco farmers labeled and displayed their entire crop of cured leaves for sale. Inspectors continued to officially assign quality grades, but buyers were allowed to peruse all of the tobacco offered for bid. By 1950, Maryland had nine loose-leaf auction warehouses, and the statistics of hogshead warehouses had dropped from five to two; loose-leaf warehouses marketed over ninety percent of Maryland tobacco.

In 1920, the Maryland State Board of Agriculture authorized an inspector of tobacco to oversee the tobacco warehouses and goods within Baltimore. Tobacco wholesalers provided the Board with monthly reports that included numbers for the amount and average price of the tobacco leaf they sold.

Responsibility for inspecting and regulating the tobacco market shifted twice between 1920 and 1961. In 1939, the Maryland State Board of Agriculture established the Commission of Tobacco Marketing to formulate rules and regulations for bookkeeping records of tobacco sales. The commission also granted licenses for the buying and selling of leaf tobacco. In 1947, the Maryland Tobacco Authority, as part of the State Department of Agriculture, began the task of fixing marketing periods and of testing weight and measurement accuracy for tobacco sales. The Maryland State Tobacco Authority continues to regulate the sale of Maryland tobacco domestically and internationally."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> University of Maryland Archives. Archives of the Maryland State Board of Agriculture Report of Leaf Tobacco Sold, 2005. Available from <http://www.lib.umd.edu/archivesum/actions.DisplayEADDoc.do?source=MdU.ead.histms.0139.xml&style=ead> (accessed Dec. 1, 2006).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. PG: 79-41c

Gebhardt, Sara. "Tobacco Show Illuminates Md. Black History Marlboro Market Artifacts on Exhibit," *Washington Post*

Thursday, February 24, 2005; Page PG21. Available from <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A47554-2005Feb23?language=printer> (accessed Dec. 1, 2006).

Lareuse, Susan. Prince George's County Planner, Memorandum RE: DSP-06013; July 11, 2006. Available from <http://www.mncppc.org/pgco/planning/agendas/2006%20Resolution%20PDFs/DSP-06013.pdf> (accessed Dec. 1, 2006).

Silva, Amy. "Going Once, Going Twice: Maryland's Tobacco Industry is Selling Out," *Maryland Newsline* Friday, March 8, 2001. Available from <http://www.newsline.umd.edu/business/specialreports/tobacco/tobaccoauction030901.htm> (accessed Dec. 1, 2006).

University of Maryland Archives. Archives of the Maryland State Board of Agriculture Report of Leaf Tobacco Sold, 2005. Available from <http://www.lib.umd.edu/archivesum/actions.DisplayEADDoc.do?source=MdU.ead.histms.0139.xml&style=ead> (accessed Dec. 1, 2006).

Virta, Alan. "The Tobacco County" in "Prince George's County: A Pictorial History," 1996. Available at <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/tobacounty.html> (accessed Dec. 1, 2006).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	4.92
Acreage of historical setting	4.92
Quadrangle name	Upper Marlboro

Quadrangle scale: 7.5 minute

Verbal boundary description and justification

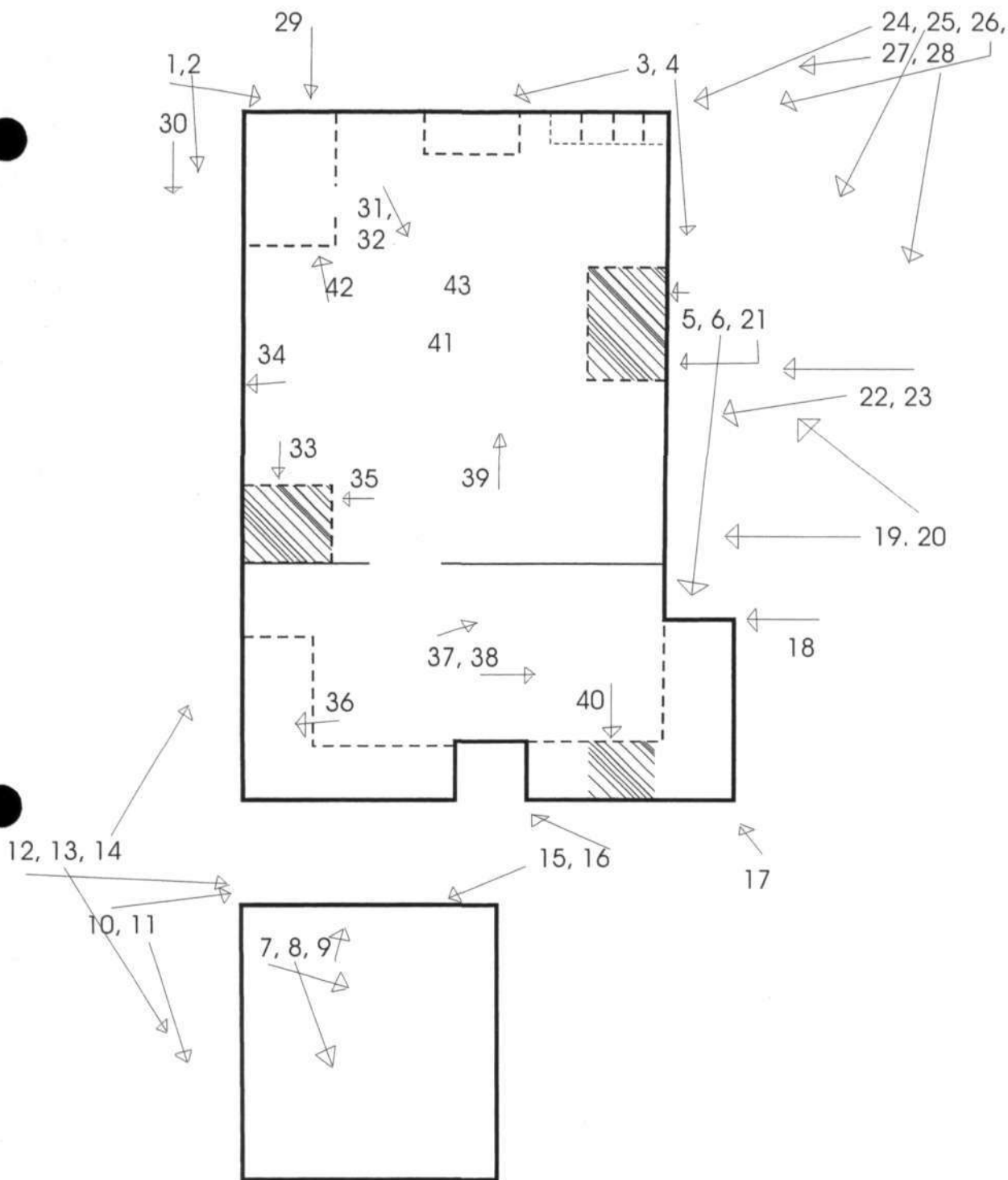
## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Rebecca Howell Crew/ Architectural Historian		
organization	The Ottery Group, Inc.	date	12-01-06
street & number	1810 August Drive	telephone	301-562-1975
city or town	Silver Spring	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



Maryland Historical Trust  
 Maryland Inventory of Historic Places Form #PG: 79-41c  
 Photo Key  
 Not to Scale  
 Marlboro Tobacco Market, Main and Rear Warehouses  
 15301 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD



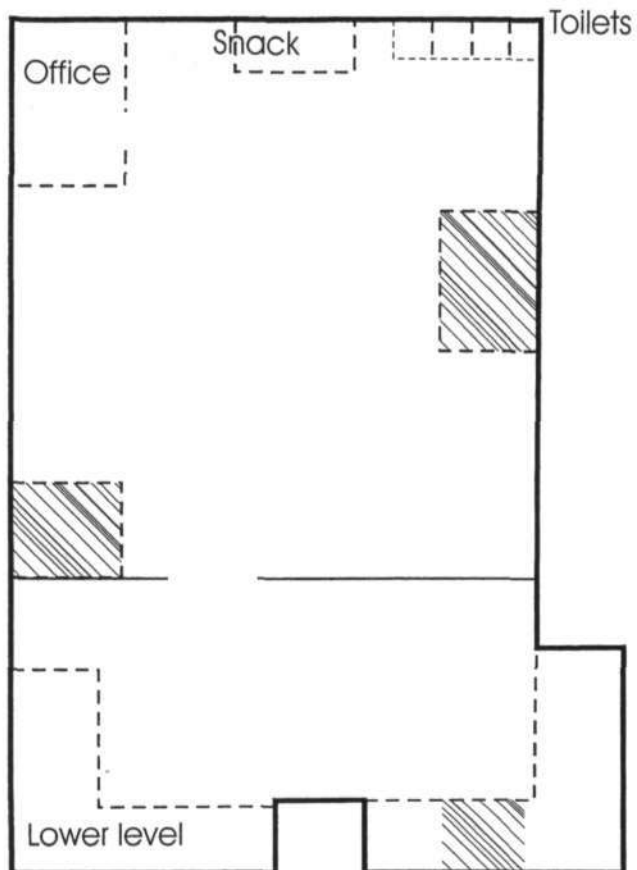
Areas of collapsed roof



North



Main  
Warehouse



Rear  
Warehouse



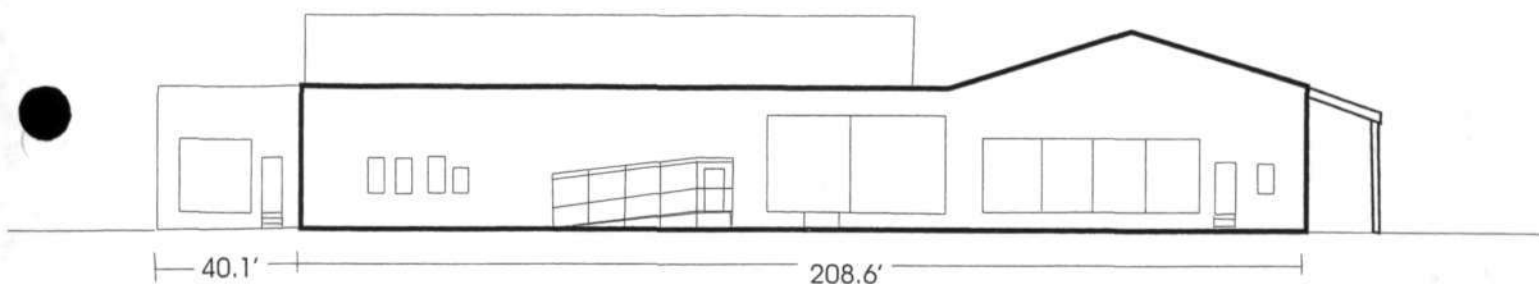
Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Inventory of Historic Places Form #PG: 79-41c  
Sketch Floor Plan  
Not to Scale  
Marlboro Tobacco Market, Main and Rear Warehouses  
15301 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD



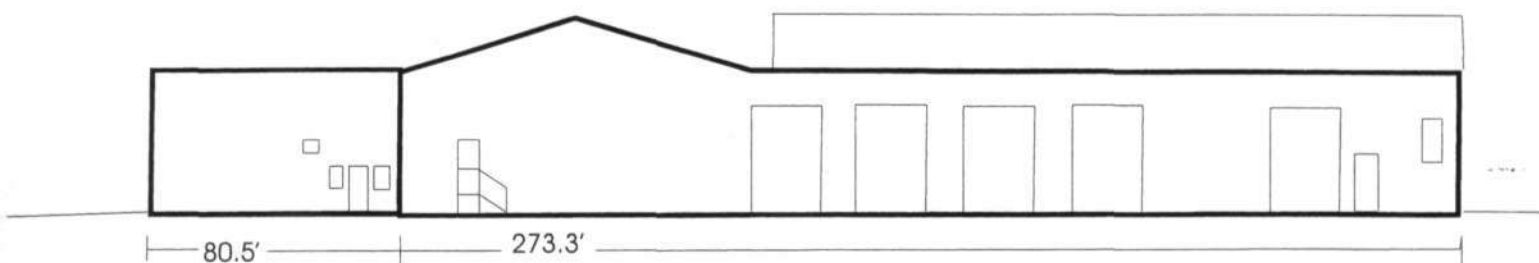
Areas of collapsed roof



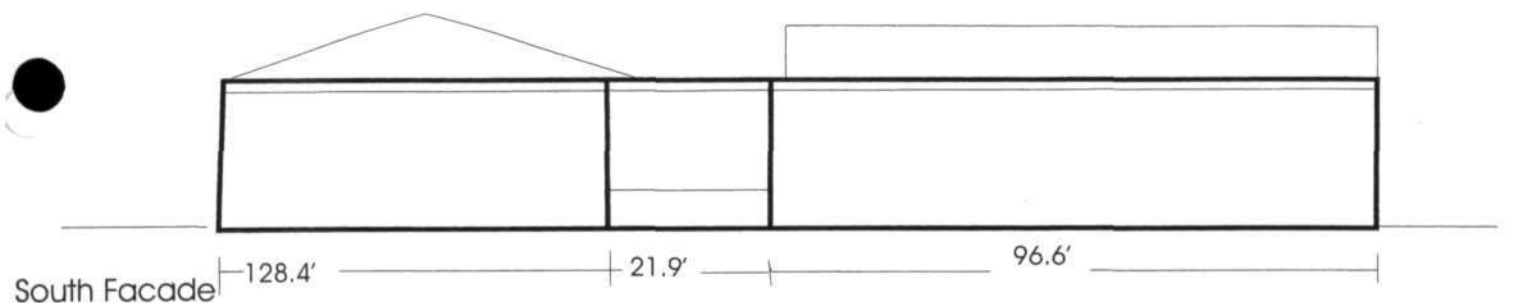
North



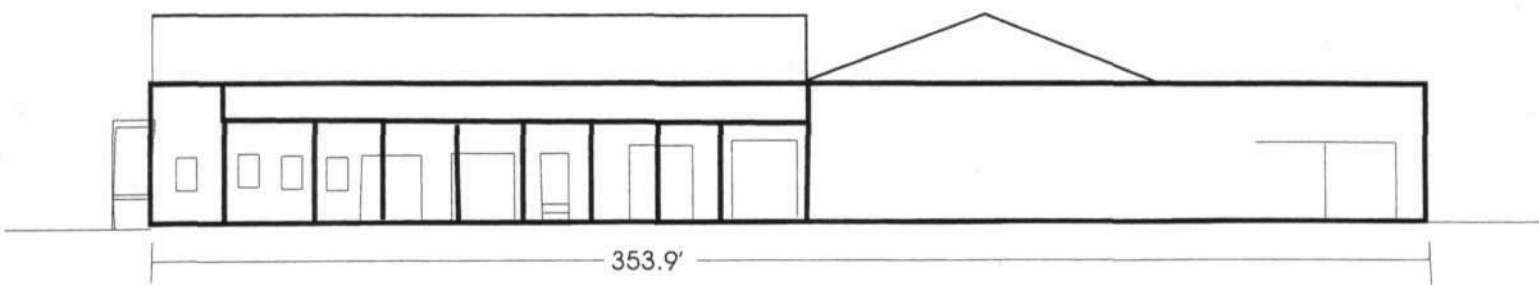
North Facade



East Facade

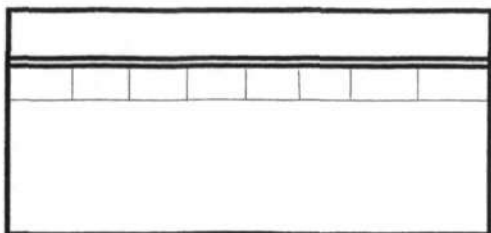


South Facade



West Facade

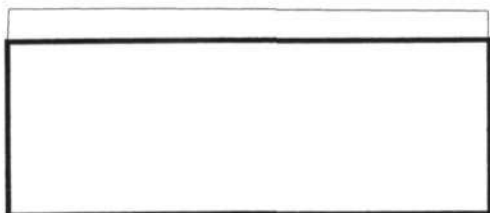
Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Inventory of Historic Places Form #PG:79-41c  
 Sketch Facades, Main Warehouse  
 Not to Scale  
 Marlboro Tobacco Market  
 15301 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD



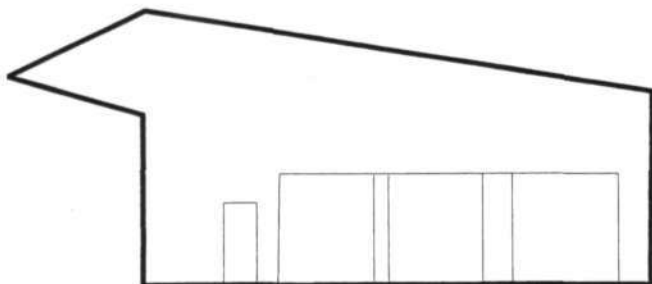
North Facade- 127.9' wide



East Facade- 143.9' long

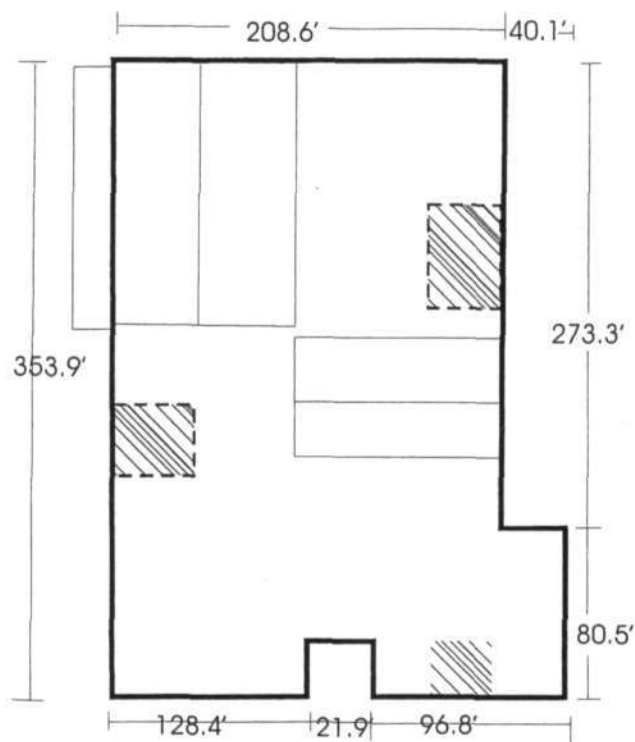


South Facade- 128.1' wide

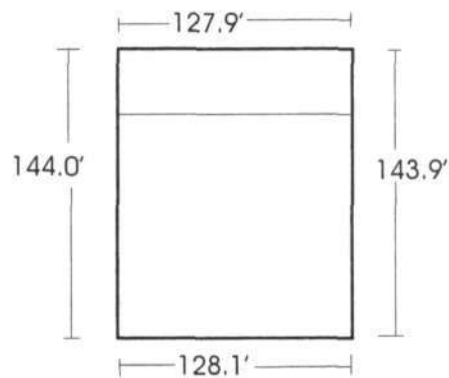


West Facade- 144.0' long

Main Warehouse



Rear Warehouse



Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Places Form #PG: 79-41c

Sketch Roof Plan, Showing Placement of gables

Not to Scale

Marlboro Tobacco Market, Main and Rear Warehouses

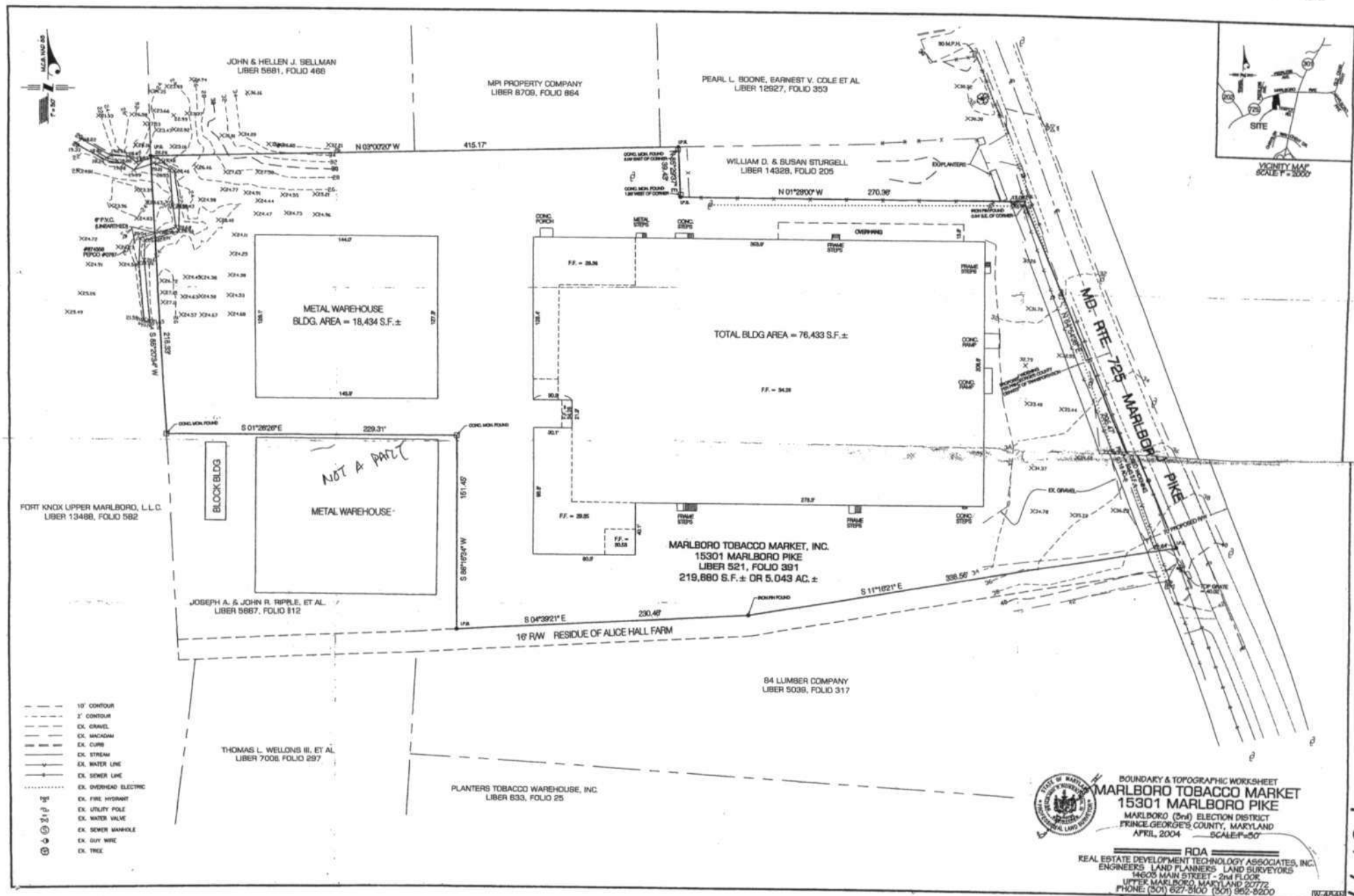
15301 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD



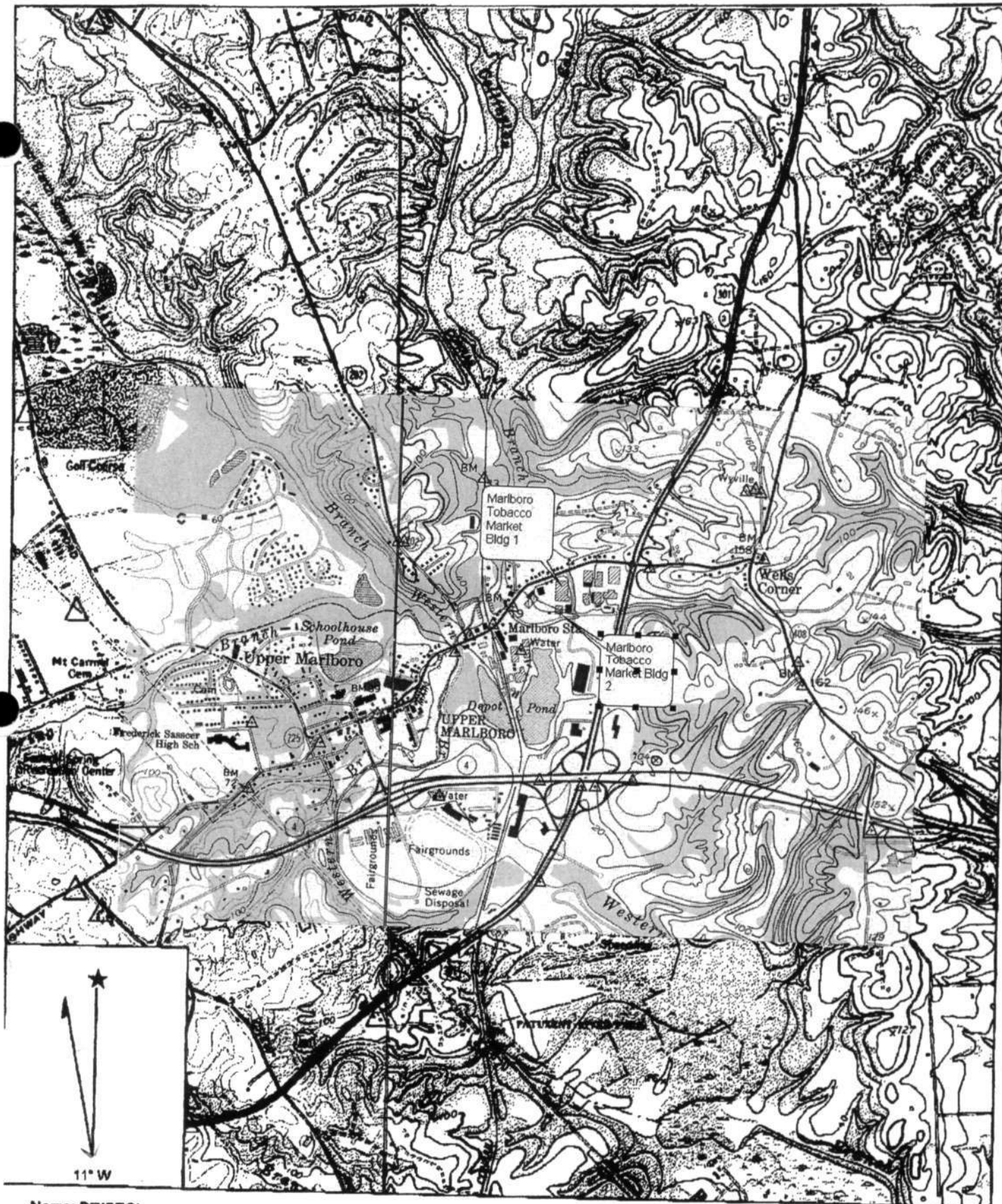
Areas of collapsed roof



North



PG-79-41c



Name: BRISTOL  
 Date: 12/1/2006  
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 038.8215283° N 076.7433812° W  
 Caption: 15301 Marlboro Pike  
 Upper Marlboro, MD

PG: 79-41c



Photo 1:

Facing southeast toward the front of the main tobacco warehouse.



Photo 2:

Facing south along west side of main warehouse.



Photo 3:

Facing southwest towards the front of the main warehouse.



Photo 4:

Facing south along the east side of the main warehouse.



Photo 5:

View towards the east side of the main warehouse.



Photo 6:

View facing southwest towards the southwest corner of the main warehouse.



Photo 7:

Interior of rear warehouse.



Photo 8:

Interior of rear warehouse.

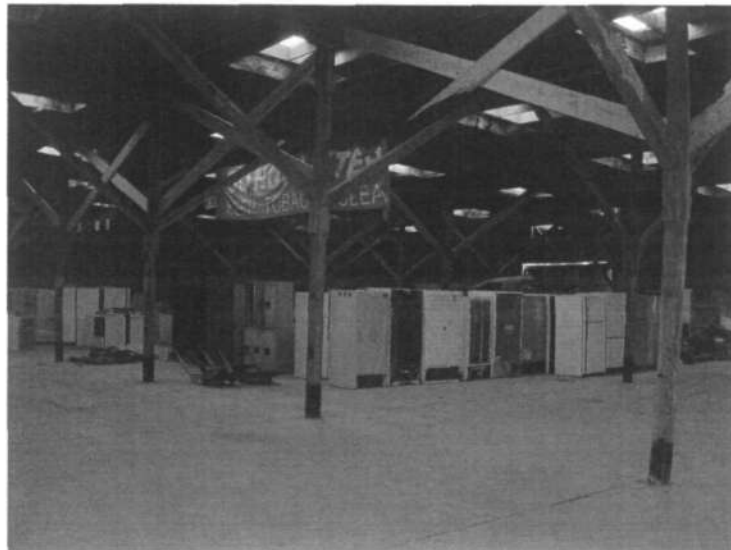


Photo 9:

North wall of rear warehouse.

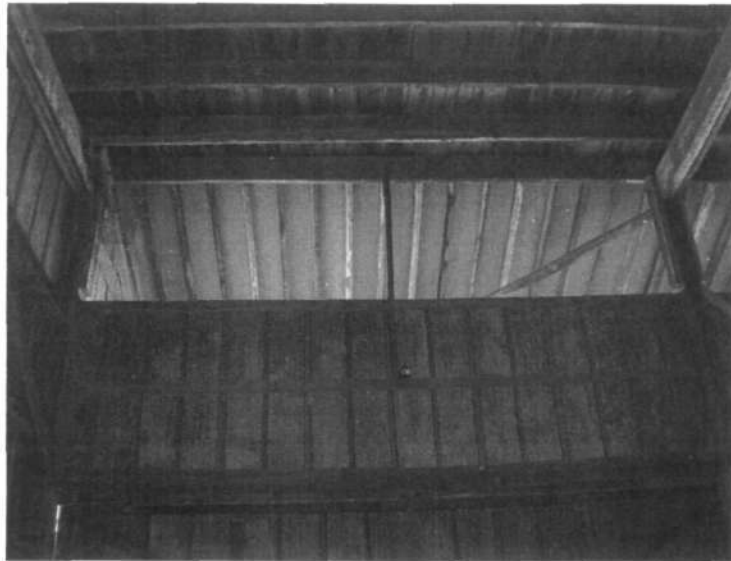


Photo 10:

View facing east at northwest corner of rear warehouse.



Photo 11:

View facing south from northwest corner of rear warehouse.

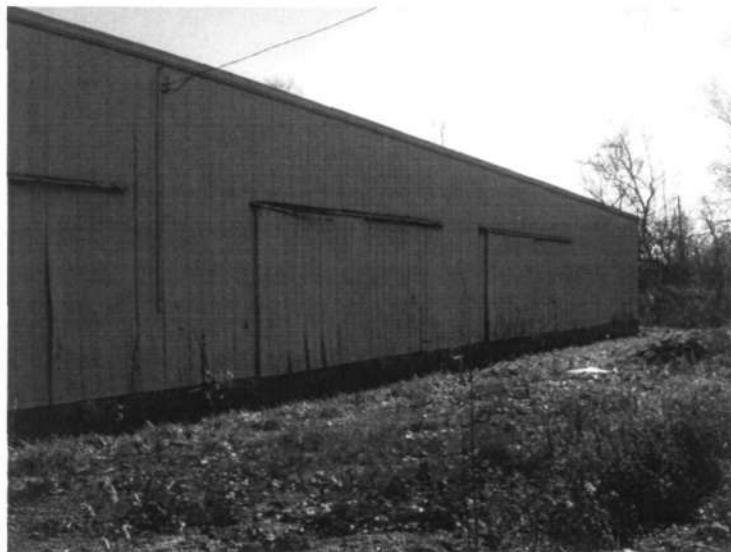


Photo 12:

View facing southeast towards  
north side of rear warehouse.



Photo 13:

View facing southeast towards  
west side of rear warehouse.



Photo 14:

View facing northeast towards  
southwest corner of main  
warehouse.

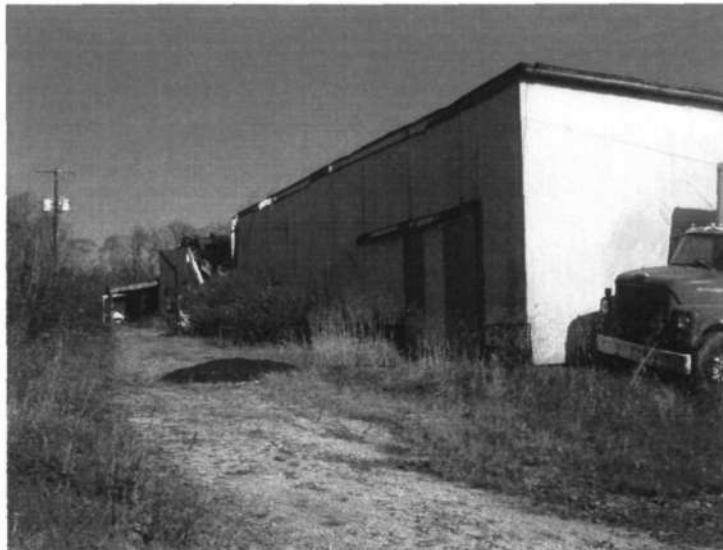


Photo 15:

View facing southwest to rear warehouse.



Photo 16:

View facing northwest towards south side of main warehouse.

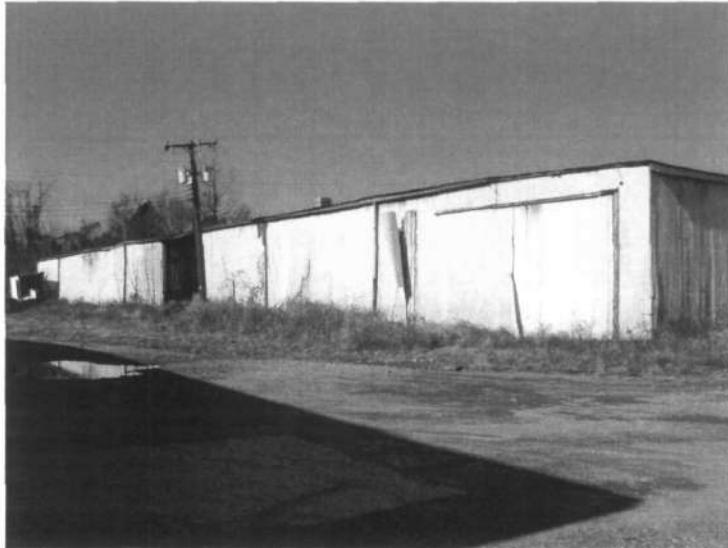


Photo 17:

View facing northwest towards east side of main warehouse.

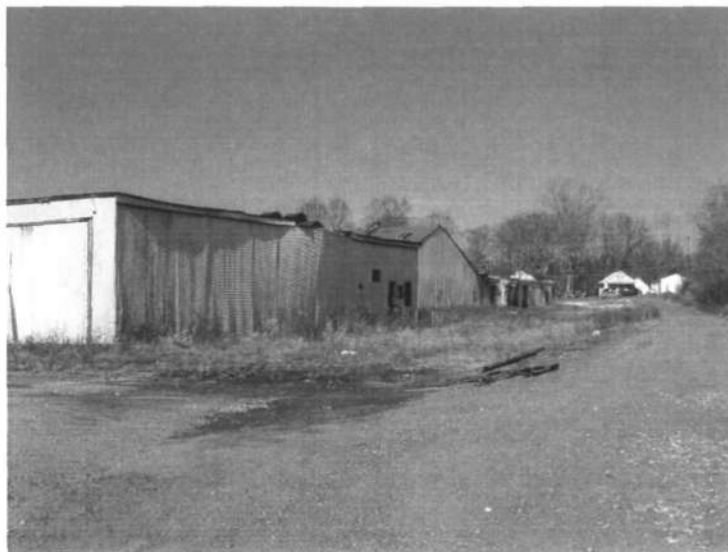




Photo 18:

View facing west towards east  
façade of main warehouse.



Photo 19:

View of gable roof on west side  
of main warehouse.



Photo 20:

View facing northwest to east  
side of main warehouse.

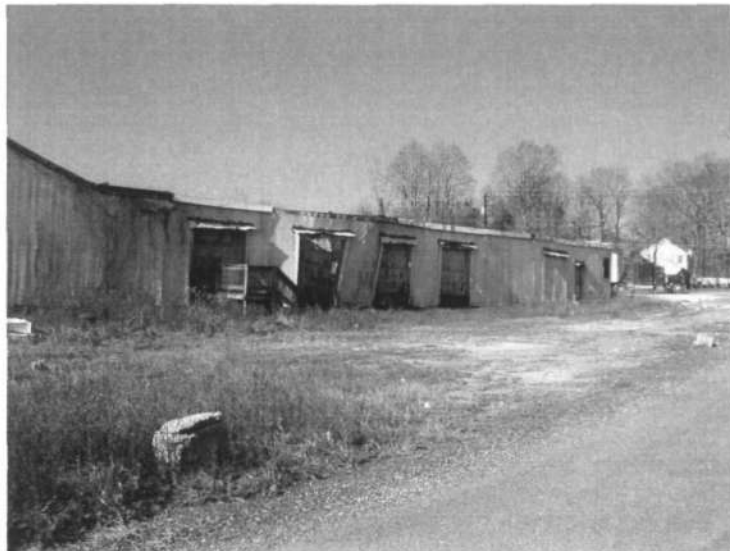


Photo 21:

View facing east façade of main warehouse.



Photo 22:

View of east façade of main warehouse.



Photo 23:

East façade of main warehouse.



Photo 24:

View facing southwest to northeast corner of main warehouse.



Photo 25:

View facing southwest towards main warehouse.



Photo 26:

View facing southwest toward north  
façade of main warehouse.



Photo 27:

View facing southwest towards  
north façade of main warehouse.



Photo 28:

View facing southwest towards  
east and north façades of main  
warehouse.



Photo 29:

View facing south towards north  
façade of main warehouse.



Photo 30:

View facing south along the west  
façade of the main warehouse.



Photo 31:

Interior of main warehouse from  
northwest corner.



Photo 32:

Detail of the roofing system of the main warehouse.



Photo 33:

Collapsed roof at the south end of the main warehouse.





Photo 34:

Paneled door on tracks on west side of the main warehouse.

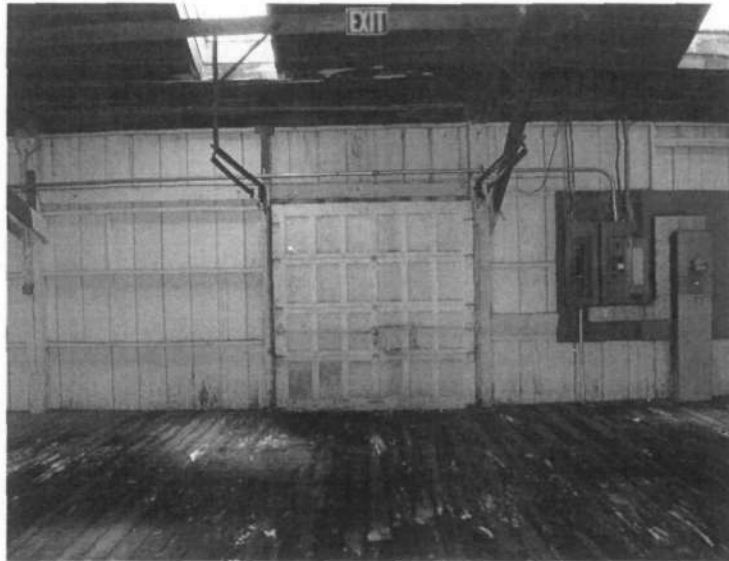


Photo 35:

Collapsed roof at southwest portion of main warehouse.



Photo 36:

View facing west of tobacco baskets located in the southwest corner of the main warehouse. Image shows railing separating the two levels.



Photo 37:

View facing northeast from southwest portion of the interior of the main warehouse.



Photo 38:

View facing east from southwest portion of the interior of the main warehouse.



Photo 39:

View of interior of main warehouse.



Photo 40:

Collapsed roof at the south end of the main warehouse.



Photo 41:

View of skylight in main warehouse.

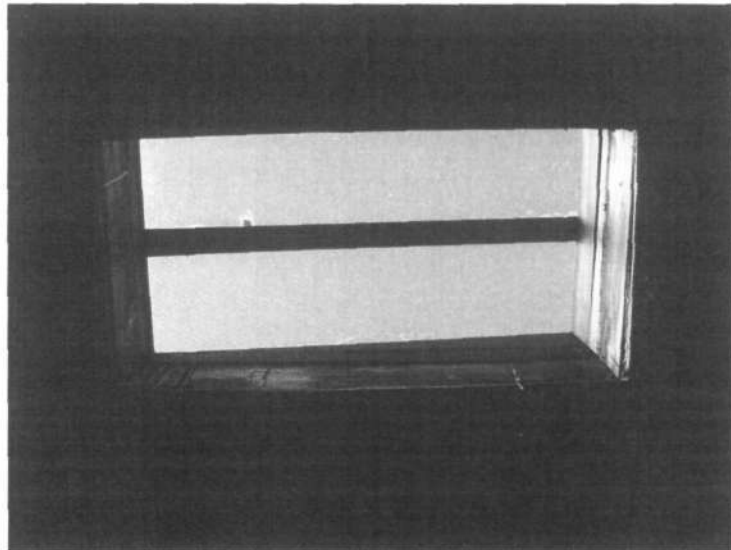


Photo 42:

View facing northwest towards office in main warehouse.



Photo 43:

Roof framing of main  
warehouse.

